

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 964

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exempt certain elderly persons from demonstrating an understanding of the English language and the history, principles, and form of government of the United States as a requirement for naturalization, and to permit certain other elderly persons to take the history and government examination in a language of their choice.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mr. NADLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exempt certain elderly persons from demonstrating an understanding of the English language and the history, principles, and form of government of the United States as a requirement for naturalization, and to permit certain other elderly persons to take the history and government examination in a language of their choice.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Senior Citizenship Act  
3 of 2001”.

4 **SEC. 2. FULFILLMENT BY ELDERLY PERSONS OF REQUIRE-**  
5 **MENT FOR NATURALIZATION RELATING TO**  
6 **KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**

7       Section 312(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality  
8 Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(b)(2)) is amended—

9           (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
10       by striking “334, either—” and inserting “334—”;

11           (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “, or” at  
12       the end and inserting a semicolon;

13           (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period  
14       at the end and inserting “; or”; and

15           (4) by adding at the end the following:

16           “(C) is over sixty-five years of age and has been  
17       living in the United States for periods totaling at  
18       least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for  
19       permanent residence.”.

20 **SEC. 3. FULFILLMENT BY ELDERLY PERSONS OF REQUIRE-**  
21 **MENT FOR NATURALIZATION RELATING TO**  
22 **KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT OF THE**  
23 **UNITED STATES.**

24       Section 312(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality  
25 Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(b)(3)) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “(3)” and inserting “(3)(A)”;  
2       and

3           (2) by adding at the end the following:

4       “(B) In the case of a person who, on the date of the  
5       filing of the person’s application for naturalization, as pro-  
6       vided in section 334, is over sixty-five years of age and  
7       has been living in the United States for periods totaling  
8       at least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for  
9       permanent residence, the Attorney General shall permit  
10      the person to fulfill the requirement of subsection (a)(2)  
11      through an examination in a language other than English  
12      selected by the person.

13       “(C) In the case of a person who, on the date of the  
14      filing of the person’s application for naturalization, as pro-  
15      vided in section 334, is over seventy-five years of age and  
16      has been living in the United States for periods totaling  
17      at least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for  
18      permanent residence, the requirement of subsection (a)(2)  
19      shall not apply.”.

20   **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

21       The amendments made by this Act shall take effect  
22      on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply  
23      to applications for naturalization pending on or after such  
24      date.

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